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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7704
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000192

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COMMERCE FOR 4520/ITA/MAC/ONE/HOFFMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/24/2018

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [BA](#)

SUBJECT: ALBA V. ALCOA; CROWN PRINCE VS. PRIME MINISTER

REF: MANAMA 89

Classified By: Charge d, Affaires a.i. Christopher Henzel, reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

- 1.(C) Summary: Bahraini parastatal Alba's lawsuit against Alcoa may help Bahrain's Crown Prince discredit cronies of his uncle, the Prime Minister
- 2.(U) Aluminum Bahrain (Alba), the world's tenth largest aluminum manufacturer, filed a lawsuit February 27 in U.S. District Court in Pittsburgh
- 3.(SBU) According to press reports, the alleged scheme came to light as the result of a Kroll investigation commissioned by Mumtalakat to root out corruption
- 4.(C) Alba's (AmCit) CFO told PolEcon Chief March 22 that he and the other company officers only learned of the suit when they read an account of the lawsuit
- 5.(C) Prominent local attorney Qays Zu'ubi told DCM March 16 that he had asked Mumtalakat CEO Talal al Zain whether the cabinet had approved the lawsuit
- 6.(C) Many in Bahrain view the lawsuit as another attempt by the Crown Prince to score more points against his uncle the Prime Minister (reftel)
- 7.(C) Bahraini Tender Board Chairman Dr. Abdul Hussein Ali Mirza told the Ambassador March 10 that he recognized that Alba's lawsuit had both a